EYES ONLY

10 September 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT

: Statements Critical of the U. S. Attributed to Gustemalan

Ambassador.

1. Meeting held in office of CWH on 9 September.

Present: Mr. Lempton Berry

Mr. Tracy Barnes

Mr. Ray Leddy

Colonel J. C. King

Mr. Hans V. Tofte

The critical remarks attributed to Guatemalan Ambassador Toriello and the action to be taken re them were discussed. Mr. Leddy reported that:

At a meeting held in ARA on the morning of 9 September, where twenty-three officers were present, he was the only one favoring action. The other twenty-two voted to do nothing for fear of "rocking the boat". They explained their position by saying that nothing should be done to divert attention from the main issue.

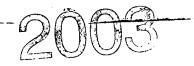
- 2. Both Mr. Leddy and Mr. Berry expressed themselves as strongly in favor of positive action and all present agreed that this was an excellent opportunity to initiate our PW campaign.
- 3. Mr. Berry will speak to General Smith, but explained that any action taken by the General which might be attributable to Berry could embarrass and adversely affect Berry's relations with the ARA side of State. His position would be more protected if an approach could be made to General Smith by Mr. Dulles or Mr. Wisner. If Mr. Wisner does not approve, then Mr. Berry will handle the matter directly.

4. Action recommended is as follows:

a. A note from the Department of State quoting the remarks attributed to Ambassador Toriello at his press conference in Guatemala City on 3 September and inquiring if said statements are true.

b. If he denies having made these remarks, wide publicity should be given to his reply. If he confirms them, a strong note of protest should be presented and our action played up prominently in the press, particularly in Central America.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM **RELEASE AS SANITIZED**





- c. There should not be a threat to declare the Ambassador persona non grata because the Guatemalan Government in retaliation might refuse an Agremont for Ambassador Peurifoy.
- 5. Attached is a factual summary of events prepared by Mr. Leddy.

WH/JCK/pw Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee

J. C. KING CWH

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